

Walla Walla County Conservation District

State Legislative District #16
Congressional District #5

Other Accomplishments

Doan Creek: The Hanebut family requested District help in their efforts to restore Doan Creek by sculpting a new channel and making fish-friendly improvements. Doan Creek is a vital cold water source for the Walla Walla River.

CURB Projects: The Creating Urban Riparian Buffer program helped two urban landowners transform landscaped yards into riparian buffers, protecting the water quality of salmon-bearing streams.

The *CREP* program saw an enrollment of seven new landowners for 444 acres. The program has helped landowners install over 3,000 acres of riparian forest buffers.

Screening Program: Fifteen fish screens were installed to protect endangered salmonids, including several complex projects using "River Screens," which are innovative screens for use in areas of low flows.

2008 Feature Accomplishment

Touchet Westside Irrigation District Piping

Resource Challenge

Low-flow conditions due to legal irrigation withdrawals by the Touchet Westside and Eastside Irrigation Districts occur downstream of Hofer Dam on the lower Touchet River. These districts have water rights that allow them to completely dewater the river at times of the year critical to fish passage. In order for adult steelhead and Chinook to pass unimpeded through the Lower Touchet River in the April-May and October-November passage windows, increased flows are needed.

Project Summary & Results

After construction of a new fish passage ladder and ESA compliant screened pumping station at Hofer Dam in 2006, the stage was set for addressing instream flows. In the fall of 2007, designs were complete and the Walla Walla County Conservation District contracted to undertake an ambitious project to replace the inefficient open ditch delivery system of the Touchet Westside Irrigation District and replace it with a much more efficient buried pressurized pipeline delivery system. Installation continued through the winter months in a race to be operational prior to the 2008 irrigation season.

The result was the completion of a new efficient and more easily managed irrigation delivery system serving 20 farms and approximately 1,200 acres of cropland. The total length of pipe used in the system was a staggering 37,000 feet. The water savings are estimated at 1,651 acre-feet per year (3.01 cfs) at a cost of about \$1.5 million.

Key Project Partners

The project was funded by the Conservation Commission Irrigation Efficiency Program and WA State Department of Ecology.



Westside ditch before



Westside ditch after

Contact Information

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Ed Chvatal, Vice-Chair
Todd Kimball, Auditor
Guy McCaw, Secretary
Pat McConnell, Member

More Work To Do

- Diversion consolidation and piping of Old Lowden-Bergevin Williams irrigation delivery systems.
- Piping of Touchet Eastside and Garden City delivery systems.
- Restoration of fish habitat on Upper Mill Creek.
- Eliminate fish passage barriers.